

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02986 171905Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /042 W

----- 059715

R 171520Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8387

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2986

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV GR

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION AND RE-ELECTIONS APR 20

REF: A. ATHENS 2329; B. ATHENS 2537

1. SUMMARY: ON APR 20 ALMOST 350,000 GREEK VOTERS GO TO THE POLLS AGAIN FOR TWO BY-ELECTIONS AND SEVERAL RE-ELECTIONS TO RESOLVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN FIVE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS WHICH WERE CONTESTED FOLLOWING THE NOV 1974 ELECTIONS. THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTING FOR THESE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL NATIONAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. EVEN SHOULD THE NEW DEMOCRACY (ND) PARTY LOSE TWO TO THREE OF THESE SEATS, AS SOME OBSERVERS EXPECT, TO THE CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES PARTY, ND WILL STILL RETAIN A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS WERE CALLED IN CORFU AND KOZANI TO FILL VACANCIES CREATED BY RESIGNATION AND DEATH, RESPECTIVELY. IN CORFU, EX-ND DEPUTY S. THEOTOKIS RESIGNED TO PROTEST THE NEUTRAL POSITION ADOPTED BY THE CARAMANLIS ADMINISTRATION ON THE MONARCHY REFERENDUM. THE ND DEPUTY FROM KOZANI, D. MANENTIS, DIED LAST JANUARY. THE CANDIDATES IN CORFU ARE NICHOLAOS KOLLAS (NEW DEMOCRACY) AND S. RALLIS (PASOK) (NOT RELATED TO GEORGE RALLIS) WHO IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY CU/NF AND THE LEFT AS THE JOINT OPPOSITION CANDIDATE. THE CONTEST IN KOZANI IS BETWEEN FORMER AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY OFFICIAL IOANNIS VAYIATIS (ND) AND EX-UNDER SECRETARY FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02986 171905Z

NATIONAL DEFENSE AND FORMER CENTER UNION DEPUTY MICHAEL

PAPACONSTANTINOU (CU/NF) WHO IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY PASOK AND THE LEFT AS THE JOINT OPPOSITION CANDIDATE. (SEE REF A FOR AN ACCOUNT OF THE CU/NF-PASOK AGREEMENT TO PRESENT JOINT OPPOSITION CANDIDATES. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE COMMUNIST PARTIES INDICATED THEY WOULD ALSO SUPPORT THEM.)

3. IN BOTH BY-ELECTIONS, THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS ARE BEING CONDUCTED ON LOCAL ISSUES AND HAVE NOT STIRRED MUCH INTEREST OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICTS INVOLVED. THE ONLY ASPECT OF SIGNIFICANCE IS HOW NEW DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES WITH ACTIVE GOVT SUPPORT WILL FARE AGAINST SINGLE CANDIDATES SUPPORTED JOINTLY BY THE OPPOSITION. (THIS IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN LAST MONTH'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WHEN THE OPPOSITION FOLLOWED THIS TACTIC WHEREAS THE GOVT PARTY DID NOT CAMPAIGN ACTIVELY.)

4. THE ELECTORAL COURT DETERMINED EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT FIVE CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY DEFEATED IN LAST NOVEMBER'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HAD VALID CLAIMS TO DEMAND RE-ELECTIONS IN THEIR SEPARATE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (REF B). UNDER GREECE'S REINFORCED PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE VOTING PROCEDURE THIS COURT ACTION RESULTED IN THE SUSPENSION OF ELEVEN DEPUTIES IN OFFICE (7-ND, 4-CU/NF) FROM THESE FIVE DISTRICTS SINCE THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DEPUTY IN ALL BUT TWO OF THESE DISTRICTS. IN TWO OF THE DISTRICTS IN QUESTION, CU/NF CANDIDATES ARE CHALLENGING INCUMBENTS WHO INCLUDE CU/NF MEMBERS. BECAUSE THESE RE-ELECTIONS ARE ALSO LIKELY TO BE DECIDED PRIMARILY ON THE BASIS OF LOCAL ISSUES AND PERSONALITIES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME. HOWEVER, IN ONE CONTEST (SIOANNINA), GEORGE MYLONAS, THE CU/NF SECRETARY GENERAL, IS FAVORED TO UPSET THE NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY WHOSE SEAT IS CHALLENGED.

5. COMMENT: CAMPAIGNS FOR THE BY ELECTIONS IN CORFU AND KOZANI ARE BEING CONDUCTED ON A PERSONAL, HARD-HITING BASIS AND MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE OUTCOME IN THESE CONTESTS WILL BE CLOSE. IT CAN BE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY ND LOSSES IN THE BY ELECTIONS OR THE RE-ELECTIONS WILL BE INTERPRETED BY THE OPPOSITION PRESS AND POLITICAL PARTIES AS EVIDENCE OF A TREND TOWARD DIMINUTION OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' POPULAR SUPPORT NATIONALLY. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THESE ELECTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 02986 171905Z

WHICH WILL BE LARGELY DECIDED ON THE BASIS OF LOCAL ISSUES, ANY SUCH CONCLUSION, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD NOT BE WARRANTED. KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOCAL ELECTIONS, DISPUTED ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750135-0782
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750440/aaaabkos.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 2329, 75 ATHENS 2537
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION AND RE-ELECTIONS APR 20
TAGS: PGOV, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006